Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A ~~storage system~~disk array device, comprising:

a plurality of disk drives; and

a disk controller being coupled to ~~an~~ at least one information processing device and ~~for transferring~~ storing data sent from the information processing device ~~to~~ in a first plurality of logical volumes relating to the disk drives~~;~~ and ~~for~~ controlling a first group having both the first plurality of logical volumes and a second plurality of logical volumes and relating data stored in the first plurality of logical volumes to the second plurality of logical volumes;

wherein the disk controller processes to

receive a command sent to the first group;

start, in accordance with the command, changing from a first status to a second status in which a relationship between the first plurality of logical volumes and the second plurality of logical volumes is split so that the second plurality of logical volumes can be accessed from said one information processing device or another information processing device via the disk controller;

receive a write command, sent from the information processing device, and being targeted to a first logical volume of the first plurality of logical volumes during a period of changing from the first status to the second status;

write data related to the write command to the first logical volume and not write the data related to the write command to a second logical volume of the second plurality of logical volumes relating to the first logical volume based on receiving the write command; and

complete changing from the first status to the second status after writing data related to the write command to the first logical volume; and

wherein consistency of data stored in the second plurality of logical volumes in the second status is maintained.

14. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 13, wherein the disk controller splits sequentially each relationship between each of the first plurality of logical volumes and each of the second plurality of logical volumes in accordance with the order in which the splits are performed, during changing from the first status to the second status.

15. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 13, wherein, in accordance with receiving the write command, the disk controller checks whether a relationship between the first logical volume and the second logical volume is split.

16. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 13, wherein the disk controller is able to write data stored in the first logical volume to the second logical volume, if the disk controller receives the write command and a relationship between the first logical volume and the second logical volume is not split.

17-18 (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 13, wherein the disk controller receives a write command or a read command sent to the second logical volume as a target logical volume.

20. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 13, wherein the first status is a pair status in which data stored in the first plurality of logical volumes are copied to the second plurality of logical volumes.

21. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 13, wherein the relationship between the first plurality of logical volumes and the second plurality of logical volumes is split and the consistency among data stored in the ~~first~~second plurality of logical volumes will be maintained with respect to the ~~current~~ point in time ~~and the consistency among data stored in the second plurality of logical volumes will be maintained with respect to the point in time~~ related to the command.

22. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 13, wherein:

the plurality of logical volumes include a second group having both a third plurality of logical volumes and a fourth plurality of logical volumes;

a relationship between the third plurality of logical volumes and the fourth plurality of logical volumes is split based on another command; and

a consistency of data stored in the fourth plurality of logical volumes is maintained.

23. (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) A disk array device~~storage system~~, comprising:

a plurality of storage regions which include a consistency group having both a first plurality of storage regions and a second plurality of storage regions, the consistency group being used to maintain consistency among data stored in the second plurality of storage regions;

a plurality of disk drive units having a plurality of disk drives which corresponds to the plurality of storage regions; and

a storage controller being coupled to ~~an~~ at least one information processing device and ~~transferring~~ storing data sent from the information processing device ~~to~~ in the plurality of storage regions;

wherein the storage controller is configured to

receive a split command sent to the consistency group as a target group, the split command being used to split a relationship between the first plurality of storage regions and the second plurality of storage regions so that the second plurality of storage regions can be accessed from said one information processing device or another information processing device via the storage controller;

start changing to a split status in which a relationship between the first plurality of storage regions and the second plurality of storage regions is split;

receive a plurality of write commands, sent from the information processing device, and being targeted to ~~at least one~~two or more ~~first~~ storage regions of the first plurality of storage regions after starting to change to the split status;

be able to copy data stored in the ~~first~~ two or more storage regions of the first plurality of storage regions to ~~a~~ two or more ~~second~~ storage regions of the second plurality of storage regions after receiving the write commands; and

write data related to each of the write commands to the ~~first~~ two or more storage regions of the first plurality of storage regions and not write the data related to each of the write commands to the ~~second~~ two or more storage regions of the second plurality of storage regions, each time of receiving each of the write commands.

25. (currently amended) A ~~storage system~~disk array device, comprising:

a plurality of disk drives; and

a disk controller for ~~transferring~~ controlling to store all data ~~to~~ in a first plurality of logical volumes relating to the disk drives; and for controlling a consistency group having both the first plurality of logical volumes and a second plurality of logical volumes, in which a consistency among data stored in the second plurality of logical volumes is maintained, if a relationship between the first plurality of logical volumes and the second plurality of logical volumes is split;

wherein the controller processes to

receive a split command sent to the consistency group, the split command being used to split a relationship between the first plurality of logical volumes and the second plurality of logical volumes;

start changing to a split status in which the relationship between the first plurality of logical volumes and the second plurality of logical volumes is split;

receive a write command sent to a first logical volume of the first plurality of logical volumes as a target volume after starting to change to the split status;

be able to copy data stored in the first logical volume to a second logical volume of the second plurality of logical volumes; and

write data related to the write command to the first logical volume after changing to a split status in which a relationship between the first logical volume and the second logical volume is split, the data related to the write command being not written to the second logical volume on receiving the write command.

26. (currently amended) A ~~storage system~~disk array device, comprising:

a plurality of logical regions which include a consistency group in which a relationship between a first plurality of logical regions of the plurality of logical regions and a second plurality of logical regions related to the first plurality of logical regions is split based on a received command, the second plurality of logical regions can be accessed from at least one information processing device by being split;

a plurality of disk drive units having a plurality of disk drives which corresponds to the first plurality of logical regions; and

a disk controller configured to ~~transfer~~ store data to the plurality of logical regions;

wherein the disk controller is configured to

receive the command sent to the consistency group;

start changing to a split status in which the relationship between the first plurality of logical regions and the second plurality of logical regions is split;

receive a write command sent to a first logical region of the first plurality of logical regions after starting to change to the split status;

be able to copy data stored in the first logical region to a second logical region of the second plurality of logical regions; and write data related to the write command to the first logical region but not to the second logical region, if the disk controller receives the write command.

27. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 13, wherein:

the disk controller writes the data related to the write command to a cache memory in which the data related to the write command are temporarily stored for writing the data related to the write command to the first logical volume.

28. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 13, wherein:

the disk controller writes the data related to the write command to the first logical volume after changing to the second status in which a relationship between the first logical volume and the second logical volume is split.

29. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 13, wherein:

the disk controller sets a flag based on receiving the command, the disk controller changes to the second status in which a relationship between the first logical volume and the second logical volume is split, if the flag is set, and

the disk controller writes data related to the write command to the first logical volume after the relationship between the first logical volume and the second logical volume changes to the second status.

30. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 13, wherein:

the disk controller sets a flag based on receiving the command, and

the disk controller does not write data related to the write command to the second logical volume, if the flag is set.

31. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 24, wherein the storage controller splits each relationship between each of the first plurality of storage regions and each of the second plurality of storage regions in accordance with the order in which the splits are performed, during changing to the split status.

32. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 25, wherein the disk controller splits each relationship between

each of the first plurality of logical volumes and each of the second plurality of logical volumes in accordance with the order in which the splits are performed, during changing to the split status.

33. (currently amended) A disk array device ~~storage system~~ according to claim 26, wherein the disk controller splits each relationship between each of the first plurality of logical regions and each of the second plurality of logical regions in accordance with the order in which the splits are performed, during changing to the split status.